

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**Minutes of Meeting
October 7, 2013**

- PRESENT:** Michael J. Retzky, Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Vice Chairman
David C. DiCicco, Member
Thomas M. Jacob, Member
Matthew M. Toolan, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director
- GUESTS:** Janet Jankowiak, YMCA
Connie Kaufman, YMCA
Jo-Anne Ochala, Community Center Committee
Dan Shapiro, Cricket Neighbor
Mark Miskin, Needham Soccer Club
Van Spiros, Town Meeting Member
John DioDato, Town Meeting Member
Heather Yountz, Cricket Neighbor
Susan Owen, Cricket Neighbor

The meeting convened at 7:06PM in the Charles River Room located in the Public Services Administration Building.

- 1. Minutes of Meeting of September 23, 2013:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2013 meeting. Mr. Toolan seconded the motion and the meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
- 2. Director's Report:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting.
- 3. Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce reported the following:
 - Working with Jacob Nikolajczyk and DPW Director Rick Merson at the Reservoir installing 2 fishing line receptacles for Jacob's Eagle Scout Project.
 - Chaperoned the 5th Quarter on September 27th. Approximately 300 students attended the free event after the H.S. football game. Foosball, basketball, ping pong, pizza, drinks and snacks were available.
 - Attended the new Senior Center walk through with the Disability Commission. The building will be a great space for new programming.
 - As the Club advisor attended the Oracle (High School Clubs Information Day) on October 1 to recruit members for the Fishin'Buddies Club. 28 new members registered. The first Club meeting will be held on October 8th.
 - Shared a copy of the Youth Resource Network Brochure. The YRN has been a helpful tool for professionals to come together to share resources for youth and families in need of support.
 - The "Take a Hike" program was held on October 3rd and 6 people attended the Town Forest hike.

- Senior Exercise began on October 4th in the temporary space at the Baptist Church. The Monday Senior Exercise Program began today at the Library with a small celebration for a participant who turned 90.
- Attended a meeting on October 3rd to brainstorm some fundraising ideas for the Bay Colony Rail Trail. One idea is to have proceeds from a local restaurant be donated on a particular day to the BCRT. Sold raffle tickets for a Trek bicycle on October 6th at the Farmer's Market.
- Programs ending this week: SkateboardEDU, Senior Golf, Adult Tennis and golf.
- In the next 2 weeks Ice skating, Itsy Bitsy, Dance and Movement, Adult Basketball, Badminton, Volleyball and Senior Walking will all be starting up.
- The Spooky Walk will be Saturday, October 19th. Volunteers are needed.
- Town-Wide Clean-Up Day will be October 26th. Volunteers are needed.

4. Discussion Items:

A. Rosemary Pool Study: Ms. Carey announced that Weston and Sampson will be meeting with the DEP for an informal discussion on the options. Ms. Carey, Mrs. Chaston, Mr. Jacob, met with Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick and Board of Selectmen Chairman Dan Matthews and Vice Chairman John Bulian to discuss the Rosemary Pool Study and how to proceed forward. They discussed a possible over ride and different community partnerships. The majority of the study is completed and will be finalized by the end of October.

B. Town-wide Facilities Study: Mr. Toolan will represent the Park and Recreation Commission on the Town-wide Facilities Study. No other information presented.

C. Food Trucks: Ms. Carey, Mrs. Chaston, Mr. Jacob, met with Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick and Board of Selectmen Chairman Dan Matthews and Vice Chairman John Bulian and reviewed the draft policy for Food Trucks in Needham. The draft policy indicated there will be a few designated areas that are underserved by restaurants that will allow food trucks to be present. If a food truck is invited to an event they will not be allowed to serve food from the truck but can serve from tables set up near the truck.

D. Soccer Club Donation: Needham Soccer Club Executive Director Mark Miskin announced a donation of \$10,000 has been deposited into the Park and Recreation gift fund for field use projects related to multipurpose fields and for field maintenance. In 2013 there were 905 teams involved in the Memorial Day Soccer Tournament making it officially the largest single weekend tournament in North America. Eleven Needham fields were used and a total of 88 fields were used in surrounding towns. Mr. Miskin has met with the Town's Economic Development Coordinator to see how the weekend event can help the Town. A sponsored outdoor movie night was suggested and is being researched. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Miskin for the Soccer Club donation.

E. Newman/Eastman Conservation Project: Ms. Carey reported the RFP is still being developed. The staff working group consists of Ms. Carey, the High School Athletic Director, DPW Director, Engineer, Parks and Forestry Superintendent, DPW Supervisor of Administration, School Health and Wellness Director, Science Center Director, Newman School Assistant Principal and the Conservation Commission Director. A letter from Needham Baseball and Softball was shared with the Commissioners indicating their willingness to help with this project to have lights, dugouts and a pavilion at the field. Ms. Carey would like to invite all the field user groups to participate in a discussion to share ideas on the future of the Newman Fields.

F. Fall Fields: The first hard rainfall of the season closed all the fields last week. There are still reports of groups using the fields regularly without a permit.

G. Harold J.A. Street, III Trust: Ms. Carey reported she is working with the Public Facilities Department to determine a schedule to have the kiosks built. Some of the donation can be used to purchase nice trash containers and other amenities such as solar trash containers. Mr. Toolan will do some research on the Big Belly solar trash system. Ms. Peirce shared a donation of \$518 from a Boy Scout to have a kiosk built for the Mitchell Woods. The donation is a part of his Eagle Scout trail project at Mitchell Woods.

H. Proposed Rail Trail- Southern Section: Ms. Carey reported the Bay Colony Rail Trail request for a lease with the MBTA will be listed on the Special Town Meeting warrant. The Selectmen and Town Manager have submitted an application to CPC for funding for an insurance policy. At a recent Finance Committee meeting, the Town Manager and CPC presented the project and received their support. CPC is meeting with the Board of Selectmen on October 9th and hosting a public hearing on October 10th. BCRT has created project phases and Phase I will include removing the rails and adding a stone dust surface for \$235,000. An anonymous donor will match all individual donations up to \$20,000 during the month of October. Other fundraising projects include raffling off a Trek bicycle, looking at challenge grants and reaching out to local businesses. They are also working with Representative Denise Garlick to get access to the state authorized \$250,000 designated to be used for Needham, Dover and Medfield communities.

I. Trail Projects: The Fall Trail Clean Up will be held on Saturday, October 26th at Ridge Hill. Pruning and the remaining trail sign installation will take place with the help of volunteers. The Needham Exchange Club is also recruiting volunteers for projects on that day.

J. Project Updates: Greene's Field, Walker-Gordon, Claxton Fencing:

Greene's Field: Ms. Carey shared photos of the Greene's Field playground equipment, installed to date. The irrigation has been installed and Steelco will complete the backstop prior to the sod being installed. The basketball poles have been installed and the court surface is being completed. The Needham Exchange Club will install a shade structure in a few weeks.

Walker-Gordon: The stone dust and crushed stone parking lot is being smoothed out. Sod is being added to the area near the playground damaged during constructions.

Claxton Field: The backstop and player fencing should be completed in October. The handicapped parking spots at DeFazio Park will be resurfaced with an asphalt surface.

K. FY'15 Operating/Capital Budgets: Ms. Carey announced that the amount of free cash is higher then originally presented at May Town Meeting indicating more projects can move forward at Special November Town Meeting.

L. Greendale Avenue Chapter 40B Project: On October 7th Ms. Carey, Mrs. Chaston and Ms. Peirce met with James Lambert from Mill Creek Residential Trust and Glen Dougherty from Tetra Tech regarding the proposed Greendale Mews 40B project. Ms. Carey shared a map of the proposed portion of the trail which would be wider then the current trail and would be covered with stone dust. The length of the proposed relocated trail is approximately 10% of the Greendale Trail. Mr. Lambert asked if the Park and Recreation Commission would send a letter of support to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Ms. Carey indicated the Park and Recreation Commission has been asked by the Board of Selectmen to write a letter in support of keeping the Greendale property as open space. Mrs. Chaston let the representatives know that this topic would be discussed at tonight's meeting.

M. Encroachment Update: Ms. Carey had nothing to new to report on the Armen Way property. She met with the owners of 170 Nehoiden Street and suggested some plantings on the portion that is Town property.

5. Action Items

A. Hillside/Mitchell Pre-Feasibility Study (Cricket): Ms. Carey shared the Special Town Meeting warrant article for the Hillside Feasibility Study. The Town Manager will confirm whether the study is for the Hillside property school address or if other parcels are to be included. Mr. Jacob spoke to School Committee Chairman Joe Barnes and it seems that the warrant article will move forward to the November Town Meeting without any changes due to MSBA rules. Representative Denise Garlick will be meeting with representatives of the MSBA and will discuss a possible language change to only include the current Hillside School property. A language change was suggested through an amendment or a substitute motion to add a sentence that includes all School Committee property. Other Town property under other jurisdictions should not be included in the Feasibility Study. The Board of Selectmen will have a conversation regarding Cricket Field later in October. Mrs. Chaston does not recommend amending the motion or the article. Mr. DiCicco would like Park and Recreation to have a firm voice of support for Cricket Field to remain a park and not become a school site. Mr. Retzky agreed a vote should be taken to support keeping Cricket Field a park. Mr. Toolan suggested broadening the discussion to include all land under the Park and Recreation Commission jurisdiction so in the future no other Commission or Board can do a feasibility study on Park and Recreation land without the Commission's knowledge. Cricket Field neighbor Dan Shapiro would like the Commission to take affirmative action as a matter of public record to let the public know the Park and Recreation Commission is not giving up Cricket Field. He does not think it wise to spend money on a feasibility study on property that cannot be obtained. He also noted the people opposed to building a school at Cricket Field support education and are proponents of building a school at the current Hillside site. He suggested getting

information to Town Meeting members indicating there is support for a school just not at Cricket Field. Heather Yountz shared the neighbors concerns. They support that Cricket Field be removed from the Pre-Feasibility Study. Mr. Retsky referred to the letter sent by the Park and Recreation Commission to the School Committee that was included in the pre-feasibility study. There was more discussion regarding the warrant night where questions can be asked prior to the Special Town Meeting. Mr. DiCicco would like the Commission to make a final decision about Cricket Field. Mr. Jacob will try to attend the Finance Committee meeting on October 9th.

6. **Topics for Future Agendas:** Hillside/Mitchell Pre-Feasibility Study (Cricket)
7. **Adjournment:** Mr. Jacob made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. DiCicco and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:08PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP
Assistant Director